

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A collaborative browsing system for a computer network comprising network servers
2 hosting a plurality of network sites, comprising:

3 a main server bi-directionally connected to the computer network, the main server
4 grouping locations of the network sites into server-defined cells; and

5 a plurality of client programs bi-directionally connected to the main server via the
6 network and each connected to at least one of the network sites,

7 wherein said main server enables a first one of the client programs connected to a
8 network site in one of the server-defined cells to identify a second one of the client programs
9 and to form a session with that second client program that collaboratively browses the
10 network sites, and

11 wherein the main server stores a location of the network site to which the session is
12 connected.

1 2. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 1, wherein the main server
2 enables a client program connected to a network site in one of the server-defined cells to
3 identify at least two additional client programs among the plurality of client programs and to
4 form the session with said additional client programs.

1 3. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 1, wherein the client programs in
2 the session follow a session leader.

1 4. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 1, wherein each client program in
2 the session can communicate with other client programs in the session.

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1 5. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 3, wherein each client program in
2 the session can communicate with other client programs in other sessions in the one server-
3 defined cell.

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1 6. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 1, wherein each client program in
2 the session can communicate with other client programs in other sessions in the one server-
3 defined cell.

1 7. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 1, wherein the main server sends
2 advertisements to at least one client program.

1 8. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 3, wherein any client program in

2 the session can act as a session leader.

1 9. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 3, wherein all client programs in
2 the session can act as session leaders.

1 10. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 1, wherein the computer network
2 is the Internet.

1 11. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 10, wherein the network sites are
2 Web sites.

1 12. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 11, wherein the locations are
2 each identified by a Universal Resource Locator code.

1 13. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 12, wherein the one server-
2 defined cell is comprised of a plurality of locations each having a corresponding Universal
3 Resource Locator code.

1 14. In a computer network comprising a plurality of network servers hosting a plurality of
2 network sites, a method of collaboratively browsing the network by a plurality of client
3 programs connected to the network, comprising:

4 defining a plurality of cells, each cell comprising at least one location of a network
5 site in the computer network;

6 communicating to a first client program connected to a first network site in one of the
7 server-defined cells information identifying a second client program which is connected to a
8 second network site in the one server-defined cell;

9 receiving a request from the first client program to form a first session together with
10 the second client program to collaboratively browse the network sites;

11 assigning the first and second client programs to a first session which collaboratively
12 browses the network sites; and

13 sending a current location of a network site to which the first session is connected to
14 all client programs in the session.

1 15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the first network site is the second
2 network site.

1 16. The method according to claim 14, further comprising assigning one of the first and
2 second client programs as a group leader.

1 17. The method according to claim 14, further comprising:
2 assigning a plurality of network site locations to a cell;
3 tracking the first session and a plurality of other sessions in the cell; and
4 informing client programs in the first session of other client programs in the other
5 sessions in the cell.

1 18. The method according to claim 14, further including causing the client programs in
2 the first session to follow the first session when the first session changes a network site to
3 which it is connected.

1 19. A method of collaboratively browsing a network according to claim 14, wherein one
2 of the client programs communicates with another client program in the first session.

1 20. A method of collaboratively browsing a network according to claim 14, wherein one
2 of the individual client programs in the first session communicates with a client program in

3 one of the other sessions in the cell.

1 21. A main server holding a SimulWorld, comprising:

2 a session manager for receiving commands that selectively join a plurality of users
3 into a session; and

4 a cell manager for forming a plurality of network locations into a server-defined cell,
5 wherein the main server sends information to a first user regarding properties of the
6 session,

7 wherein the main server sends information to the first user regarding other sessions in
8 the cell; and

9 wherein the main server sends updated network location information of the session to
10 the first user when the session changes its network location.

1 22. A main server according to claim 21, wherein the main server receives message
2 information from the first user and selectively sends that message information to other users
3 in the session.

1 23. A main server according to claim 21, wherein the main server receives message

2 information from the first user and selectively sends that message information to other users
3 in the other sessions in the cell.

1 24. A main server according to claim 21, wherein the main server sends information to a
2 first user regarding an allied user.

25. A main server according to claim 24, wherein the main server receives message
information from the first user and selectively sends that message information to the allied
user.

26. A main server according to claim 21, wherein the information sent to a first user
2 regarding properties of the session includes information regarding other users in the session.

1 27. A main server according to claim 21, wherein the information sent to a first user
2 regarding properties of the session includes information regarding the current location of the
3 session.

1 28. A main server according to claim 21, wherein the information sent to a first user

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